

# Transportation Checklist

Air quality regulations require every school to look at the types and amounts of materials that are, or potentially could be, emitted to the air. We know that respiratory illnesses are strongly influenced by exposures in the environment, both indoors and outdoors. Recent research suggests asthma, in some cases, is caused by environmental exposures including diesel emissions from school buses.

Most schools were not designed to accommodate growth in school bus fleets. As a result, small parking lots and driveways now force awkward or dangerous arrangements for buses during arrival and dismissal periods and contribute to excessive exposure to exhaust and particulate matter from buses and cars. Many school parking lots are being upgraded or redesigned, offering an opportunity to develop more effective spaces for bus parking and delivery.

Use this checklist to start an anti-idling program at your school.

- ☐ Create an anti-idling policy and keep it on file.
- ☐ Post signs stating that all vehicles are prohibited from idling on school premises.
- ☐ Design a school bus schedule to minimize school bus caravans. By staggering school bus arrivals and drop-offs, schools can reduce excessive idling.
- ☐ Design smart parking lots and driveways. Parking lots and driveways can be designed to limit student proximity to bus emissions and better protect them from accidents.
- ☐ Have bus drivers turn off engines while they wait for students. Bus drivers should restart the engine only when they are ready to depart.
- ☐ Have drivers turn the ignition key to "auxiliary" if they need to run equipment such as the radio or flashing lights.
- ☐ At school bus depots, limit the idling time during early morning warm-up to what is recommended by the manufacturer. In colder weather, block heaters can help warm the engine to avoid starting difficulties and shorten warm-up time. New buses are designed to start easily at all temperatures without idling.
- ☐ Provide a space inside the school where bus drivers who arrive early can wait during cold or warm weather, until the students are dismissed.
- ☐ Notify parents in the drop-off/pick-up line to shut off their engines while waiting for students.
- ☐ Have buses park in an area away from the school's air-intake vents.
- ☐ Create incentives for bus drivers who follow the new anti-idling guidelines.

## Transportation checklist (Continued from front)

### Getting Started:

You will find the following items useful in your program. These items can be found on the Transportation and Waste Minimization CD in your Green Steps Tool Kit and can be tailored to your specific needs:

- ☐ **A press release template announcing the anti-idling program.** Customize this template and send it to the local newspaper or to parents to publicize the school's anti-idling program.
- ☐ **The Indiana Department of Environmental Management's official "V.I.P. Challenge Pledge."** By taking the "pledge," schools commit to following the guidelines of the anti-idling program.



- ☐ **IDEM's official "V.I.P. Challenge Vehicle Idling Program Certificate of Recognition."** Schools and bus drivers can display the certificate to show parents and community members they are doing their part to reduce emissions and protect student health.



By implementing anti-idling policies and practices, schools can reduce unnecessary vehicle emissions—protecting students' health.

Learn more about how to reduce emissions by checking out the Transportation and Waste Minimization CD in your Green Steps Tool Kit, or by visiting the IDEM Web site, at [www.IN.gov/idem/programs/air/dieselwise](http://www.IN.gov/idem/programs/air/dieselwise).